

What's New in the MPDC

MAY 13, 2002

MPDC WARNS MOTORISTS: "CLICK IT OR TICKET" IN DC

DC already boasts one of the highest seat belt usage rates in the nation. But rather than rest on their laurels, officials are launching a new campaign to get even more drivers and passengers to buckle up – and to prevent needless injuries and save lives in the process. Called "Click It or Ticket," the new campaign includes both public education about seat belt usage and stepped-up enforcement of the District's strict seat belt laws. The educational component includes radio and television advertising, new Click It or Ticket signs on gateway streets leading into the District, and community outreach activities.

Under DC law, the driver and all passengers – both front and rear seat – must be buckled up. Violations carry a \$50 fine, plus two points on the driver's license. Also, DC has a primary seat belt law, meaning that officers can stop motorists solely for seat belt infractions.

The new "Click It or Ticket" brochures are printed in both English and Spanish. If your community group is interested in ordering bulk quantities of the brochure, contact Lt. Patrick Burke, the MPDC's Traffic Safety Coordinator, at 202-727-9346 or e-mail pburke@mpdc.org.

There will be a special emphasis on informing Latino residents, whose seat belt usage lags behind DC's average of 84 percent. The enforcement component includes additional safety checkpoints, saturation patrols, officer observation teams and other strategies in all seven police districts. Read the news release on the May 13 announcement of Click It or Ticket at:

mpdc.dc.gov (click on News Room)

MAY "CHAMPS OF THE MPDC"

This month's CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) awards ceremony honored 18 outstanding MPDC officers who have excelled in serving the community. Included was 4D Officer Michael Proctor, named Departmental Officer of the Month. On the morning of February 9, 2002, a citizen approached Officer Proctor to report that a man was slumped over the steering column of a vehicle at 13th and Decatur Streets, NW. As Officer Proctor approached the vehicle, the occupant suddenly sat up. Officer Proctor detected he was holding a gun magazine and was attempting to load a sniper-style rifle. When the gunman pointed the rifle toward the officer's chest, Proctor reacted quickly, pulling open the driver's side door and grabbing the occupant from the vehicle. At this point, the rifle fell to the ground. Officer Proctor's training, experience, bravery and sound judgment enabled him to handcuff the armed suspect without having to use deadly force himself. In addition to recovering the assault rifle and ammunition, police recovered 20 zip-lock bags of heroin and a suicide note. Read more about Officer Proctor's heroics, and the actions of the 17 other May CHAMPS awardees, at:

mpdc.dc.gov (click on About MPDC / Heroes of the MPDC)

FLORIDA GIRL DONATES SAFETY VESTS TO POLICE CANINES IN DC AND ARLINGTON

Stacey Hillman is the president and founder of a non-profit charity that has raised more than \$175,000 in community and corporate donations to protect police K-9s. And this Florida girl is still waiting for her 12th birthday! This past week, Stacey visited MPDC Headquarters to deliver the latest donations from her Pennies to Protect Police Dogs charity: new safety vests for Aldo, an MPDC K-9, and Storm, a police dog from Arlington County. Stacey's charity has provided safety vests to

Donations to Pennies to Protect Police Dogs can be sent c/o the Casselberry Police Department, 4195 S. Hwy 17-92, Casselberry, Florida, 32707. You can learn more about the charity on-line at:
www.penniestoprotectpolicedogs.org

more than 160 police K-9s from her home state of Florida and as far away as Alaska. "Police dogs have just as hard a job as the human officers, and they deserve to be protected," says Stacey. Her charity buys Point Blank IIA bulletproof and stab-resistant vests, the best protection available for K-9s. Read about Stacey's donation to the MPDC at:

mpdc.dc.gov (click on News Room)

ON-LINE MEMORIAL TO MPDC OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

On May 12-18, police officers and their families from across the country are gathering in DC for National Police Week – a time to honor the thousands of law enforcement personnel who have been killed in the line of duty while protecting our communities. To honor MPDC officers who have been killed in the line of duty, the Department created an on-line memorial. It includes a brief description and, where available, photographs of all of the fallen officers dating back to 1871. In addition, family members, friends and colleagues are invited to submit personal remembrances of

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is located in the 400 block of E Street, NW. Get a complete list of Police Week activities by calling 202-737-3400, or visiting the Web at:
www.nleomf.com/index1.html

their fallen heroes. These mementos are then posted on the on-line memorial. To view the memorial and submit a personal remembrance, go to

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund also maintains an on-line memorial for officers killed in the line of duty nationwide. You can access the memorial and submit personal tributes at
www.nleomf.com/index1.html

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Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

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